

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An exhaust gas treatment device, ~~in particular for an internal combustion engine, preferably in a motor vehicle,~~

comprising a housing ~~(2)~~ and a substrate body ~~(3)~~ which is situated in the housing ~~(2)~~ and through which exhaust gases can flow in an axial direction ~~(5)~~,

whereby wherein the substrate body ~~(3)~~ is supported axially by an axial bearing ~~(8)~~ on the housing ~~(2)~~ on at least one axial end face ~~(11)~~,

whereby wherein the axial bearing ~~(8)~~ has a supporting ring ~~(10)~~, which is fixedly mounted on the housing and has a U-shaped profile ~~(12)~~, which is open axially toward the end face ~~(11)~~ of the substrate body ~~(3)~~,

whereby wherein the axial bearing $\langle 8 \rangle$ has a bearing ring $\langle 17 \rangle$ of a bearing material which engages in the U-shaped profile $\langle 12 \rangle$ of the supporting ring $\langle 10 \rangle$ on its axial end facing away from the substrate body $\langle 3 \rangle$ and is supported axially thereon and which is supported on the end face $\langle 11 \rangle$ of the substrate body $\langle 3 \rangle$ with its axial end facing the substrate body $\langle 3 \rangle$; and

wherein the supporting ring is fastened to an axial bottom of the housing, and the bottom is fastened to a jacket of the housing.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the bearing ring $\langle 17 \rangle$ is designed as a knit or a wire knit or a knit cushion or a wire knit cushion.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the bearing ring $\langle 17 \rangle$ supports the substrate body $\langle 3 \rangle$ axially on an edge section $\langle 18 \rangle$ which is on the outside radially of the axial end face $\langle 11 \rangle$.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

an outside cross section ~~(19)~~ of the bearing ring ~~(17)~~ is equal to or greater than an outside cross section ~~(16)~~ of the substrate body ~~(3)~~ on its end face ~~(11)~~,

an inside cross section ~~(20)~~ of the bearing ring ~~(17)~~ is smaller than the outside cross section ~~(16)~~ of the substrate body ~~(3)~~ on its end face ~~(11)~~.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

an outside leg ~~(13)~~ which is on the outside radially of the U-shaped profile ~~(12)~~ of the supporting ring ~~(10)~~ has on its inside radially an inside cross section ~~(15)~~ which is equal to or greater than an outside cross section ~~(16)~~ of the substrate body ~~(3)~~ on its end face ~~(11)~~.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the supporting ring ~~(17)~~ is at a distance axially from the end face ~~(11)~~ of the substrate body ~~(3)~~ facing it.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

an inside leg $\langle 14 \rangle$, which is on the inside radially of the U-shaped profile $\langle 12 \rangle$ of the supporting ring $\langle 10 \rangle$, is shorter axially than an outside leg $\langle 13 \rangle$ which is on the outside radially of the U-shaped profile $\langle 12 \rangle$ of the supporting ring $\langle 10 \rangle$.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the supporting ring $\langle 10 \rangle$ is designed as a separate component, which is fastened to the housing $\langle 2 \rangle$.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 8, wherein

the supporting ring $\langle 10 \rangle$ has an interruption $\langle 21 \rangle$ in the circumferential direction.

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the substrate body $\langle 3 \rangle$ is supported radially on the housing $\langle 2 \rangle$ by a radial bearing $\langle 7 \rangle$ along its circumference,

the radial bearing $\langle 7 \rangle$ has a bearing mat $\langle 9 \rangle$ made of bearing material surrounding the substrate body $\langle 3 \rangle$ on the outside radially, and

the bearing ring $\langle 17 \rangle$ and the bearing mat $\langle 9 \rangle$ are separate components.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 11, wherein

the bearing ring $\langle 17 \rangle$ and bearing mat $\langle 9 \rangle$ are spaced a distance apart from one another axially.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the substrate body $\langle 3 \rangle$ is supported axially on the housing $\langle 2 \rangle$ via the axial bearing $\langle 8 \rangle$ at least on its axial end face $\langle 11 \rangle$ on the outflow side.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the bearing ring ~~(17)~~ has a profile whose extent in the axial direction is greater than or approximately twice as large as its extent in the radial direction.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the dimensions of the supporting ring ~~(10)~~ and the bearing ring ~~(17)~~ are coordinated so that two legs ~~(13, 14)~~ of the U-shaped profile ~~(12)~~ of the supporting ring ~~(10)~~ support the bearing ring ~~(17)~~ on the outside radially and on the inside radially.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the bearing ring ~~(17)~~ is designed as a spring having a predetermined characteristic.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the bearing ring ~~(17)~~ is installed with an axial prestress.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 17, wherein

the prestress is selected so that there is a residual axial stress even during operation of the exhaust gas treatment device ~~(17)~~.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The exhaust gas treatment device according to Claim 1, wherein

the exhaust gas treatment device ~~(17)~~ is a particulate filter or a soot filter or a catalytic converter.